

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A porous article which is formed from a polymeric material, ~~in which characteristics of the surface of the article provided by the polymeric material are said polymeric material modified by having grafted to it chains of polymerised-polymerized units of a first vinyl monomer grafted thereto, so as to modify the surface characteristics of said porous article, in which the mean number of the said first vinyl monomer units in each chain is being not more than about~~ 60.

2. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which the wherein said chains of the said polymerized units of said first vinyl monomer units include a unit of a second vinyl monomer.~~

3. (currently amended) A porous article which is formed from a polymeric material, ~~in which characteristics of the surface of the article provided by the polymeric material are said polymeric material modified by having grafted to it chains of polymerised-polymerized vinyl monomer units grafted thereto, so as to modify the surface characteristics of said porous article, in which the said chains of polymerized vinyl monomer units comprising each comprise a predetermined number of units of a first vinyl monomer and include including a unit of a second vinyl monomer which is different from the said first vinyl monomer.~~

4. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 3, ~~in which wherein the ratio of the number of units of the said first vinyl monomer in each chain to the number of units of the said second vinyl monomer is not more than about~~ 60.

5. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 3, ~~in which wherein the mean number of said first vinyl monomer units in each chain is not more than about~~ 60.

6. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, ~~in which wherein~~ the chains of ~~the said~~ first vinyl monomer are capped by a unit of ~~the said~~ second vinyl monomer.

7. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 1 or claim 5, ~~in which wherein~~ the mean number of ~~said~~ first vinyl monomer units in each chain is not more than about 30.

8. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 1 or 3, ~~in which the polymeric wherein~~ said porous article comprises a non-woven fabric formed from ~~fibres~~ fibers whose surface is provided by ~~a said polymeric material~~.

9. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 1 or 3, ~~in which the wherein~~ said polymeric article comprises a microporous sheet.

10. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 1 or 3, ~~in which the wherein~~ said first vinyl monomer comprises an ethyleneically unsaturated carboxylic acid or an ester thereof.

11. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 10, ~~in which the wherein~~ said first vinyl monomer comprises acrylic acid or an ester thereof.

12. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, ~~in which the wherein~~ said second vinyl monomer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetic acid, vinyl sulphonic acid, or vinyl phosphonic acid, or their and the salts or esters thereof.

13. (currently amended) An article as claimed in claim 1 or 3, ~~in which the polymer of the article wherein~~ said polymeric material comprises polypropylene.

14. (currently amended) An electrochemical device which comprises an anode, a cathode, a quantity of an electrolyte, and an electrode separator which is provided by an article as claimed in claim 1 or claim 3.

15. (currently amended) A method of making a porous polymeric article whose surface has ~~grafted to it~~ chains of

~~polymerised~~ polymerized vinyl monomer groups grafted thereto, which comprises:

impregnating a porous polymeric article with a solution of a first vinyl monomer and a second vinyl monomer,

exposing ~~the~~ said impregnated article to ultraviolet radiation while exposure of the article to oxygen is restricted, to cause (i) ~~the~~ said first vinyl monomer to form ~~polymerised~~ polymerized chains which are grafted to the surface of ~~the~~ said polymeric article, and (ii) ~~the~~ said second vinyl monomer to react with the ~~polymerised~~ polymerized chains of ~~the~~ said first vinyl monomer.

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said porous polymeric article comprises a non-woven fabric formed from ~~fibres~~ fibers whose surface is provided by a polymeric material.

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said polymeric article comprises a microporous sheet.

18. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises an ethyleneically unsaturated carboxylic acid or an ester thereof.

19. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, ~~in which the~~ wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises acrylic acid or an ester thereof.

20. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said second vinyl monomer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetic acid, vinyl sulphonic acid, or vinyl phosphonic acid, or their and the salts or esters thereof.

21. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which~~ wherein the ratio of the molar concentration of the said first vinyl monomer in the solution to that of the ~~said~~ second vinyl monomer is at least about 1.5.

22. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15,
~~in which the~~ wherein said polymer ~~of the article~~ comprises
polypropylene.